Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (currently amended): A method for selling information to a buyer,
2   the method comprising:
3   receiving an offer from a buyer for [[the]] information including wherein
4   the offer includes at least one contingency from the buyer, wherein each
5   contingency that provides an uncertainty regarding of an event related to the
6   information occurring;
7   providing the information from a seller in response to the offer, the
8   information [[includes]] including at least one condition about the at least one
9   contingency, wherein [[each]] satisfaction of the at least one condition provides a
10   promise upon which fulfillment of will resolve the uncertainty of the event
11   occurring to satisfy at least one of the contingencies depends and will trigger at
12   least part of a payment from the buyer, and wherein acceptance of the at least one
13   condition forms a contract and the at least one condition is unsatisfied when the
14   information is provided; and
15   receiving a first the at least part of the payment for the information for the
16   seller upon the satisfaction of the at least one condition for the contingency after
17   the information has been provided to the buyer and the buyer has subsequently
18   determined that the at least one condition has resolved the uncertainty of the event
19   occurring to satisfy the at least one contingency.

1   2.   (currently amended): The method as set forth in claim 1, further
2   comprising receiving a base payment as the at least part of the payment when the
3   information has been provided to the buyer.

-2-

1   3.   (currently amended): The method as set forth in claim 1, further

2 comprising adjusting an amount for the [[first]] at least part of the payment based

3 on a probability that the condition for the contingency will occur.

1   4.   (currently amended): The method as set forth in claim 3, further

2 comprising:

3   selecting an announced probability for the condition [[for]] to resolve the

4 uncertainty to satisfy the contingency; and

5   determining the amount for the [[first]] at least part of the payment based

6 on a function which uses the announced probability for the condition for the

7 contingency occurring.

1   5.   (currently amended): The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein

2 the amount of the [[first]] at least part of the payment is maximized when the

3 announced probability for the condition occurring is substantially the same as a

4 true probability for the condition occurring.

1   6.   (currently amended): The method as set forth in claim 1, further

2 comprising setting the condition [[for]] to resolve the uncertainty to satisfy the

3 contingency in the received offer.

1   7.   (currently amended): The method as set forth in claim 6, further

2 comprising:

3 ·   sending a counteroffer to the buyer based on the offer, the counteroffer

4 providing the condition set [[for]] to resolve the uncertainty to satisfy the

5 contingency to the buyer; and

6   determining if the counteroffer with the condition set for the contingency

7 is accepted by the buyer, wherein the information is only provided upon the

8 condition set for the contingency being accepted.

1   Claim 8 (cancelled).

- 3 -

1   Claim 9 (cancelled).

1   10.   (currently amended): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2   one or more of the steps are carried out electronically.

1   11.   (currently amended): A system for selling information to a buyer,
2   the system comprising:
3   a receiving system that receives an offer from a buyer for [[the]]
4   information [[including]] wherein the offer includes at least one contingency from
5   the buyer, wherein each contingency that provides an uncertainty regarding of an
6   event related to the information occurring;
7   a source for the information that provides the information in response to
8   the offer, the information [[includes]] including at least one condition about the at
9   least one contingency, wherein [[each]] satisfaction of the at least one condition
10   provides a premise upon which fulfillment of will resolve the uncertainty of the
11   event occurring to satisfy at least one of the contingencies depends and will
12   trigger at least part of a payment from the buyer, and wherein acceptance of the at
13   least one condition forms a contract and the at least one condition is unsatisfied
14   when the information is provided; and
15   a contingent payment processing system that receives a first the at least
16   part of the payment for the information upon the satisfaction of the at least one
17   condition for the contingency after the information has been provided to the buyer
18   and the buyer has subsequently determined that the at least one condition has
19   resolved the uncertainty of the event occurring to satisfy the at least one
20   contingency.

1   12.   (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 11, further
2   comprising a base payment processing system that receives a base payment as the
3   at least part of the payment when the information has been provided.

- 4 -

1   13.   (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 11, wherein

2   the [[first]] contingency payment processing system adjusts an amount for the

3   [[first]] at least part of the payment based on a probability that the condition

4   [[for]] to resolve the uncertainty to satisfy the contingency occurs.

1   14.   (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 13, wherein

2   the [[first]] contingency payment processing system selects an announced

3   probability [[for]] to resolve the uncertainty to satisfy the condition for the

4   contingency and a function for determining the amount for the [[first]] at least

5   part of the payment based on the announced probability for the condition for the

6   contingency occurring.

1   15.   (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 14, wherein

2   the [[first]] contingency payment processing system maximizes the amount of the

3   contingent payment when the announced probability for the condition occurring is

4   substantially the same as a true probability for the condition occurring.

1   16.   (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 11, further

2   comprising a condition setting system which sets the condition [[for]] to resolve

3   the uncertainty to satisfy the contingency in the received offer.

1   17.   (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 16, further

2   comprising:

3   a counteroffer system that sends a counteroffer to the buyer based on the

4   offer, the counteroffer provides the condition set [[for]] to resolve the uncertainty

5   to satisfy the contingency to the buyer; and

6   purchase decision system that determines if the counteroffer with the

7   condition set for the contingency is accepted by the buyer, wherein the

8   information is only provided upon the condition set for the contingency being

9   accepted.

- 5 -

1   Claim 18 (cancelled).

1   Claim 19 (cancelled).

1   20.   (currently amended): The system as set forth in claim 11, wherein
2   the receiving system receives the offer and the source of the information provides
3   the information electronically.

1   21.   (currently amended): A computer readable medium having stored
2   instructions for selling contingent information which when executed by a
3   processor, causes the processor to perform:
4   receiving an offer from a buyer for [[the]] information including wherein
5   the offer includes at least one contingency from the buyer, wherein each
6   contingency that provides an uncertainty regarding of an event related to the
7   information occurring;
8   providing the information from a seller in response to the offer, the
9   information [[includes]] including at least one condition about the at least one
10   contingency, wherein [[each]] satisfaction of the at least one condition provides a
11   premise upon which fulfillment of will resolve the uncertainty of the event
12   occurring to satisfy at least one of the contingencies depends and will trigger at
13   least part of a payment from the buyer, and wherein acceptance of the at least one
14   condition forms a contract and the at least one condition is unsatisfied when the
15   information is provided; and
16   receiving a first the at least part of the payment for the information for the
17   seller upon the satisfaction of the at least one condition for the contingency after
18   the information has been provided to the buyer and the buyer has subsequently
19   determined that the at least one condition has resolved the uncertainty of the event
20   occurring to satisfy the at least one contingency.

- 6 -

1   22.   (currently amended): The medium as set forth in claim 22, further
2   comprising receiving a base payment <u>as the at least part of the payment</u> when the
3   information has been provided to the buyer.

1   23.   (currently amended): The medium as set forth in claim 22, further
2   comprising adjusting an amount for the [[first]] <u>at least part of the</u> payment based
3   on an announced probability that the condition [[for]] <u>to resolve the uncertainty to</u>
4   <u>satisfy</u> the contingency will occur.

1   24.   (currently amended): The medium as set forth in claim 23, further
2   comprising:
3   selecting the announced probability for the condition for the contingency;
4   and
5   determining the amount for the [[first]] <u>at least part of the</u> payment based
6   on a function which uses the announced probability for the condition for the
7   contingency occurring.

1   25.   (currently amended): The medium as set forth in claim 24, wherein
2   the amount of the [[first]] <u>at least part of the</u> payment is maximized when the
3   announced probability for the condition occurring is substantially the same as a
4   true probability for the condition occurring.

1   26.   (currently amended): The medium as set forth in claim 21, further
2   comprising setting the condition [[for]] <u>to resolve the uncertainty to satisfy</u> the
3   contingency in the received offer.

1   27.   (currently amended): The medium as set forth in claim 26, further
2   comprising:
3   sending a counteroffer to the buyer based on the offer, the counteroffer
4   providing the condition set [[for]] <u>to resolve the uncertainty to satisfy</u> the
5   contingency to the buyer; and

- 7 -

6   determining if the counteroffer with the condition set ~~for the contingency~~

7   is accepted by the buyer, wherein the information is only provided upon the

8   condition set ~~for the contingency~~ being accepted.

1   Claim 28 (cancelled).

1   Claim 29 (cancelled).

1   30.   (currently amended): The medium as set forth in claim 21, wherein

2   one or more of the steps are carried out electronically.

1   31.   (new): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the information

2   from the seller in response to the offer is provided without a payment from the

3   buyer.

1   32.   (new): The system as set forth in claim 11, wherein the information

2   from the seller in response to the offer is provided without a payment from the

3   buyer.

1   33.   (new): The medium as set forth in claim 21, wherein the

2   information from the seller in response to the offer is provided without a payment

3   from the buyer.

- 8 -